



Meeting Minutes

Dowdy Park Design – Committee Meeting

February 10, 2015, 3:00 pm

Nags Head Board Room, Nags Head, NC

Design Team & Committee Members Present

Commissioner Susie Walters
Kelly Wyatt
Teresa Kerber
Kerry Sanders
Chris Dewitt
Ben Cahoon

Andy Garman
Ralph Barile
David Elder
Holly White
Lisa Strydom
John Delucia

A meeting with the Committee members, Planning Department staff and the Design Consultants began at 3:00 pm on February 10, 2015. The meeting was held to discuss the elements that would be included in the final Dowdy Park Master Plan. The Committee was presented with a hand out summarizing the comments that were received from participants at the Open House meeting held with the Board of Commissioners on January 27, 2015. The meeting began with a brief summary of the January 27 meeting. John Delucia then summarized the feedback received from both the January 14 and 27 meetings. He discussed the general desire for two green lawn areas, the pavilion, parking access from and parallel to Bonnett Street and several other items that were discussed at the meetings. Chris DeWitt concurred and clarified several design features before a general Committee discussion ensued.

The meeting proceeded with discussions of pavilion placement, relocation of the garden elements and basketball half court. It was decided that the northeast entrance from Bonnet and Wrightsville should have some landscaping and art wall elements and that the basketball court should be shifted to the south. This would still allow a garden area near the school that could perhaps have a small gazebo. The areas at the northeast and southeast corners of the site would be softened with landscaping and act as gateways to the park and could still provide for butterfly gardens, children gardens or generally quiet areas with permanent landscaping.

The Committee decided to eliminate the sidewalk connection to US 158 at the southwest corner of the site as there are no current plans to install sidewalks along US 158 in this area. The internal walkways would still be maintained. The desire to berm, landscape, and fence (split rail) along the western boundary was expressed as a way to contain and protect people from the highway traffic. The berm would also tend to contain balls and Frisbees within the area and could also be used for seating and observation of play on the western lawn.

For stormwater management a functional garden feature area was discussed to be located in the northwest area of the site. This may be a created wetland, rain garden or bioretention area and could be used for both stormwater management and as another feature at the NW gateway entrance to the park. This feature may also include a boardwalk crossing and observation deck/shelter.

The desire to relocate the pavilion slightly to orient it in a NE/SW alignment resulted in discussions regarding placement of the restroom and older adult activities. There is a desire to separate the older adult activities from the more active areas like the basketball court but to still keep it near the restrooms, pavilion and parking lot. The restroom and pavilion will need some storage capabilities and planning for water service and electrical service throughout the park was discussed as well as irrigation needs for the landscaping.

There is still a desire to incorporate some berms and walkways between the two lawn areas and to include fitness stations, wayshowing and art panels along these areas. The use of walls and benches for grade transitions and for art was still desired.

The Committee then discussed the need for lighting. It is the committee's desire to provide adequate lighting for the basketball court and sports wall area as well as the pavilion and parking areas. The use of bollards around the walkways and non-activity areas was desired. There was no desire to light the lawn areas for night time uses but the ability to have occasional floodlights for events that end after dark was expressed. Lighting levels and periods were discussed and it was determined that the desire would be to limit lighting times and intensities to the early evening hours but to still provide lighting for security purposes throughout the park. Controlling light levels and utilizing cut off fixture types to limit light spillage into residential areas is desired.

The next step in the process will be for Albemarle and VHB to refine the conceptual plan and the continued preparation of the planning document narratives and costs. The intention is to have the revised conceptual master plan presented to the Board of Commissioners in their March meeting. Upon the concurrence of the plan elements, Albemarle & Associates will complete the planning document for final approval by the Committee and Board of commissioners in April

The meeting lasted until approximately 5:00 pm and then adjourned.

By: John M. DeLucia, PE 02/13/15